

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 STR-08 COME-00 TRSE-00

TAR-02 CIEP-02 OPIC-12 AID-20 DRC-01 RSC-01 /094 W

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R 052145Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2838

UNCLAS KINGSTON 3035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JM, US

SUBJ: JAMAICAN RICE SITUATION

REF: STATE 172331

1. TRADE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY REPORT THAT IMPORT LICENCES FOR AMERICAN PACKAGED RICE WERE ISSUED FREELY (QUOTA SUSPENDED) IN JULY AND AUG AND WILL BE ON SAME BASIS IN SEPT. LICENCES HAVE BEEN ISSUED ONLY TO PREVIOUS QUOTA HOLDERS.

2. US RICE NOW IS SUBJECT TO COMMON EXTERNAL TARRIFF (CXT) OF 15 PERCENT, PLACING IT AT A SEVERE PRICE DISADVANTAGE TO GUYANESE RICE WHICH IS IMPORTED DUTY FREE. SLOW DELIVERIES FROM THE US ARE CREATING A PROBLEM TO DISTRIBUTORS BECAUSE FOB PRICES TEND TO INCREASE BEFORE CONSIGNMENTS ARRIVE. GOJ RETAIL PRICE CONTROL MECHANISM DOES NOT REACT QUICKLY TO SUPPLIER PRICE CHANGES. IMPORTERS BELIEVE THAT HIGH FOB PRICES IN FACE OF PRICE CONTROLS DO NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PROFIT MARGIN.

3. FOURTH QUARTER 1973 QUOTA OUTLOOK UNCLEAR. MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY OFFICIAL STATED THAT PROSPECTS FOR GUYANESE RICE HARVEST ARE GOOD AND IF FULFILLED SHOULD REDUCE JAMAICA'S NEED FOR US RICE. THIS COULD RESULT IN TIGHT QUOTAS, PERHAPS AS LOW AS FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER 1973 LEVELS. CONVERSELY, CONTINUING GUYANESE EXPORT SHORTFALL SHOULD MEAN LIBERALLY GRANTED IMPORT LICENCES FOR US RICE.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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